

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Claims 1, 2 and 4-12 are pending. Claims 1 and 7 are independent. Claims 1, 2 and 6 are amended. Claim 3 is canceled without prejudice to, or disclaimer of, the subject matter recited therein.

In sections 2 and 3 on page 2, the Office Action objects to the specification for the specified reasons. The specification is amended to add reference characters as applicable. It is respectfully submitted that the specification complies with all applicable requirements. For at least the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully requested that the objection to the specification in sections 2 and 3 on page 2 of the Office Action be withdrawn.

In section 4-6 on pages 2-3, the Office Action objects to the drawings for the specified reasons. Applicant submits herewith replacement sheets including drawing corrections that add reference characters to the drawings and delete other characters from the drawings. It is respectfully submitted that the drawings comply with all applicable reasons. For at least the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully requested that the objections to the drawings specified in sections 4-6 on pages 2-3 of the Office Action be withdrawn.

In section 8 on page 3, the Office Action rejects claim 3 under 35 U.S.C §112, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph, as being allegedly indefinite for the specified reason. Claim 3 is canceled without prejudice to, or disclaimer of, the subject matter recited therein. For at least the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claim 3 in section 8 on page 3 of the Office Action be withdrawn.

In sections 10-13 on pages 4-5, the Office Action rejects claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 10 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) and 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0012382 to Ferchichi et al. (hereinafter "Ferchichi"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1, from which claims 4 and 5 depend, recites "creating, by the authentication server and depending on the authentication domain identifier, an authentication stack." Claim 7, from which claims 10 and 11 depend, contains a similar recitation.

The system described in Ferchichi implements a single sign-on module by successively completing each communication layer required for authentication. See paragraphs [0048]-[0050]. The system described in Ferchichi does not, however, create a stack that varies based on a provided authentication domain identifier. Rather, the system of Ferchichi processes all authentication layers based on the information contained in a smartcard. See paragraph [0106].

Claims 1 and 7, from which claims 4, 5, 10 and 11 depend, further recite, "consolidating authentication results to obtain an authentication status for the end-user client." It is respectfully submitted that Ferchichi does not disclose, teach or suggest this subject matter. Rather, the system disclosed in Ferchichi successively authenticates each layer and, if a given layer fails to authenticate, repeats a pre-determined number of times before failure. See paragraph [0114]. Thus, the subject matter disclosed, taught and suggested by Ferchichi simply authenticates each layer in a serial fashion until failure and does not attempt authentication on each layer prior to "consolidating authentication results."

Claim 1 further recites, "mapping said authentication modules to authenticating domain identifiers associated to end-user clients of said authentication server." It is respectfully submitted that Ferchichi does not disclose, teach or suggest this subject matter.

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 10 and 11 as allegedly being anticipated by Ferchichi be withdrawn.

In sections 15-18 on pages 5-7, the Office Action rejects claims 2, 3, 6, 8, 9 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being allegedly being unpatentable over Ferchichi in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0154373 to Shimada et al. (hereinafter "Shimada"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 2, 3, 6, 8, 9 and 12 are allowable based at least on their dependence from claims 1 and 7 for the reasons stated above in connection with the rejection of claims 1 and 7. It is respectfully submitted that the Shimada fails to overcome the deficiencies in Ferchichi described above in connection with the rejection of claims 1 and 7 as allegedly being anticipated by Ferchichi. For at least the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 2, 3, 6, 8, 9 and 12 as allegedly being unpatentable over Ferchichi in view of Shimada be withdrawn.

## **CONCLUSION**

While we believe that the instant amendment places the application in condition for allowance, should the Examiner have any further comments or suggestions, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned attorney in order to expeditiously resolve any outstanding issues.

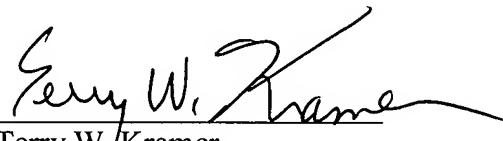
Application No: 10/699,665  
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Respectfully submitted,  
**KRAMER & AMADO, P.C.**

Date:

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